

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 1, A pneumatic device for personal protection comprising a gas-tight element including a sac that is connectable through an inlet box to an automatically releasing inflating means, and said pneumatic device further comprises attaching means co-operating, in working position, with a body of a user so that said element is kept in a position which corresponds to a portion of the body to be protected, wherein said element encloses a variable volume chamber to be filled with a gas introduced therein via said inlet box, wherein said chamber comprises inside flexible partition members extending lengthwise along a longitudinal axis of said chamber, the partition members being connected along edges thereof extending lengthwise to two opposite walls of said chamber, whereby said flexible partition members divide said chamber into a plurality of compartments arranged one next to another such that said compartments are in fluid communication with each other, wherein characterised in that itsaid pneumatic device is removably attached to a protective article of clothing-(26) or removably incorporated in an internal lining of the_said protective article of clothing, said protective article of clothing-(26) exhibiting including two pivotable attachments or flaps-(27,28) connected to its_an upper and lower portion thereof, respectively, a back portion-(29) and a front portion-(31), said attachments or flaps(27,28), in normal use conditions, being releasably fastened to the back-(29) of the_said protective article of clothing-(26) and each having each the form of a pocket for containing one of the_a plurality of portions-(11A,11C) of the sac like_said element-(11).

5. (Currently amended) The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 4, characterised in thatwherein the attachments or flaps-(27,28) are attached to the back-(29) of the_said protective article of clothing-(26) by means of releasable touch-and-close fastening means.

6. (Currently amended) The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 5, characterised in that wherein the touch-and-close fastening means (30) are designed so that during inflation of the sac like said element (11) a simultaneous unfolding of the attachments or flaps (27,28) is permitted.

7. (Currently amended) The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 4, characterised in that the wherein said protective article of clothing (26) exhibits includes resilient inserts (32) arranged between the back portion (29) and the front portion (31), and on the shoulders and the sides of said protective article of clothing, said resilient inserts (32) permitting the sac like said element (11) to expand during inflation without causing constriction to the user and giving him the user freedom of movement.

8. (Currently amended) The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 2, A pneumatic device for personal protection comprising a gas-tight element including a sac that is connectable through an inlet box to an automatically releasing inflating means, and said pneumatic device further comprises attaching means co-operating, in working position, with a body of a user so that said element is kept in a position which corresponds to a portion of the body to be protected, wherein said element encloses a variable volume chamber to be filled with a gas introduced therein via said inlet box, wherein said chamber comprises inside flexible partition members extending lengthwise along a longitudinal axis of said chamber, the partition members being connected along edges thereof extending lengthwise to two opposite walls of said chamber, whereby said flexible partition members divide said chamber into a plurality of compartments arranged one next to another such that said compartments are in fluid communication with each other, wherein said element comprises an upper portion, a central portion and a lower portion for protecting a cervix portion, a dorsum portion and a sacrum portion, respectively, of a spinal column of the body of the user, the upper and lower portions of said element are arranged to be folded upon the central portion when said element is in a deflated condition, characterised in that it wherein said pneumatic device is removably attached to a protective article of clothing (26) or removably incorporated in an internal lining of the said

protective article of clothing, said protective article of clothing (26) ~~exhibiting~~ including two pivotable attachments or flaps (27,28) connected to its ~~an~~ upper and lower portion thereof, respectively, a back portion (29) and a front portion (31), said attachments or flaps(27,28), ~~in normal use conditions,~~ being releasably fastened to the back (29) of the ~~said~~ protective article of clothing (26) and each having ~~each~~ the form of a pocket for containing one of ~~the~~ a plurality of portions (11A,11C) of the ~~sac~~ like ~~said~~ element (11).

9. (Currently amended) ~~The pneumatic device for personal protection according to claim 3, A pneumatic device for personal protection comprising a gas-tight element including a sac that is connectable through an inlet box to an automatically releasing inflating means, and said pneumatic device further comprises attaching means co-operating, in working position, with a body of a user so that said element is kept in a position which corresponds to a portion of the body to be protected, wherein said element encloses a variable volume chamber to be filled with a gas introduced therein via said inlet box, wherein said chamber comprises inside flexible partition members extending lengthwise along a longitudinal axis of said chamber, the partition members being connected along edges thereof extending lengthwise to two opposite walls of said chamber, whereby said flexible partition members divide said chamber into a plurality of compartments arranged one next to another such that said compartments are in fluid communication with each other, wherein said element comprises a pair of impervious sheets sealed together at respective edges thereof, said impervious sheets being joined together and enclosing the variable volume chamber into which an amount of gas is introduced to inflate said element, characterised in that it~~ wherein said pneumatic device is removably attached to a protective article of clothing (26) or removably incorporated in an internal lining of the ~~said~~ protective article of clothing, said protective article of clothing (26) ~~exhibiting~~ including two pivotable attachments or flaps (27,28) connected to its ~~an~~ upper and lower portion thereof, respectively, a back portion (29) and a front portion (31), said attachments or flaps(27,28), ~~in normal use conditions,~~ being releasably fastened to the back (29) of the ~~said~~ protective article of clothing (26) and each having ~~each~~ the form of a pocket for containing one of ~~the~~ a plurality of portions (11A,11C) of the ~~sac~~ like ~~said~~ element (11).